

THE REDEEMER

SERMONETTE

After having taken some new step of faith, have you been surprised to find yourself face to face with a great trial of that faith? Do not be discouraged, for the Word of God indicates that you can expect to have your faith tested.

Listen to these encouraging words from I Peter 1:7: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." The purpose of this trial of faith is not to torment you, or to try and destroy your faith. Rather, its purpose is the approval of your faith--the proof of its genuineness, and the increase of its quality.

Peter's illustration is of the goldsmith refining crude gold ore in a crucible. The pure gold must be separated from the foreign material. Heat is used to reduce the ore to liquid form, and the impurities are then skimmed off. When the goldsmith sees the reflection of his face in the surface of the heated liquid, he knows it is pure gold. Even so, God allows us to have fiery trials in order that the dross of our life shall be separated from us, and our faith purified and greatly increased. We are kept in the furnace of affliction until our great Goldsmith sees the reflection of Christ in our lives.

If our earnest prayer to God does not bring the quick response we would like to have, then we must realize that the delay is designed of God to teach us not to look to human sources of help, but to depend upon God alone and His promises. God does not want us to believe simply because our circumstances look more favorable, but on the contrary, He is pleased to have us believe His Word even though circumstances for the time being seem to be entirely against us.

Let the words of Job express your faith in God: "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

Fred H. Wight

from The Christian Digest

C.E. PROGRAM

Mr. George Takaka will speak to the combined C. E. groups tonight at the Church Library. Further details of the Wooster Conference will be given.

It will be an evening of inspiration and thoughts on practical Christian living which will help to broaden our minds and will prove to be profitable on other phases as well.

Issei Service

Our speaker for this Morning's Worship, Rev. Paul Osumi of Rivers, Arizona, will speak tonight at the Issei Service. A special invitation has been extended to the young people to join in worship with the adults at Chapel 305 beginning 7:00 P.M.

in and out

Members of our congregation who have departed within the last two weeks are Mrs. Kasai & sons, George and Hideo to Crystal City, Tex.; and Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Nakamura to Chicago, Ill.

We welcome back an old friend, Mr. Jiro Watanabe.

Leadership Training

Miss Leona Smith, field Secretary of the Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church, will conduct classes in leadership training on Monday and Tuesday nights, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, from 7:30 P.M.

Everyone is invited to take advantage of these sessions given by such an experienced person as Miss Smith, that traits of leadership may be developed.

JUNIOR OFFICERS

At their last meeting, the Junior Christian Endeavor Society elected officers for the coming year. Able officers chosen are as follows:

President	- June Kiyomoto
Vice Pres.	- Amy Nagata
Secretary	- Hideko Tanaka
Treasurer	- Margaret Takahashi
Chairmen	
Devotional	- David Kagiwada
Fellowship	- Keiko Yoshida
Service	- Peter Shizume
	- Mas Konatsu
Song Leader	- Mitsuye Kiritani
Reporter	- Mary Osato

TESTIMONY

"Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!"

Many months ago when I was led humbly to the feet of God, I wondered how a stranger such as I could be of service to Him. Heretofore, I had had no time in my life to listen to the teaching of His Word, but through the gentle guidance of a true Christian friend, I found my Saviour.

Since then, I have received countless blessings for I have a friend eternal and true. I know I received a priceless gift in the love of God, and I pray that I may grow deeper in my Christian experience and never stray from the narrow way of life eternal.

"Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin,
Each vict'ry will help you some other to win;
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue,
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through."

-- Totomi Mano

"STREAMS IN THE DESERT"

After over a year of fruitful experiences in Boston III, the Young People's Christian Endeavor Society has chalked up in camp another momentous advance for the banner of Jesus Christ by making available for free distribution to our Church members and to our many friends outside, a living testimonial booklet called "Streams in the Desert".

Between its covers, the booklet tells us how and why it came to be written; but it does not mention the convulsive steps by which it ventured through its fetal and embryonic stages, beset by wartime obstacles in the procurement of materials and the agonized difficulties encountered in the correspondence by which its testimonies were gathered, before it blossomed forth as the testimonial to end all testimonials. The difficulties attending its parturition may well be attested by the fact that the booklet effloresced after a gestation period of six and one-half months, following the birth of the idea in July of 1943. That the volunteer working-staff of the Y.P.C.E. persevered for such a length of time, should prove to the little world to which this booklet is humbly offered, the earnestness with which our C.E. group approached the production of this testimonial volume.

However, it is not enough for us that this booklet has been completed. That is only one-half of the story. Where we go from here, is far more important. The dedications and affirmations set forth in the testimonial volume are workable challenges to everyone whom this volume calls upon; and I am sure that each one who receives a copy, will find within the fibre of his Christian being an answering cry to the call.

In a war-torn world where hatred and mass fear are running rampant, we find only the Christian people conscientiously guarding the ramparts of civilization. Everywhere, we find the ties of Fellowship reaching across nations and continents, and the Christian spirit calling upon us to do our part in preserving love and sanity in the world.

We can do our part by making a conscious effort to become more positive, effective instruments in the total Christian movement, which is attempting to embrace the world. We can add strength and meaning to the world movement by permitting the testimonies of the booklet to find outlets and expressions in our daily lives. And it is in the hopes of strengthening us in our purpose to live useful and helpful lives, by binding us through the ties of Fellowship and by bringing to us an awareness of the constant presence of His Spirit, that "Streams in the Desert" is humbly offered in His name. May we all be inspired by the example of our matchless Saviour, to magnify God's Kingdom on earth.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The iThird Christian Church of Boston acknowledges the monthly pledges received from Marian and Kikuno Tanabe, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Nellie Shiohita, Utah; and Fujiko Hirashima, Detroit, Mich.

We greatly appreciate the gift of Mr. Steven "Sod" Nakashima, a copy of the novel "The Apostle" by Sholem Asch.

Felicitations

Chapel 305 was the scene of a beautiful formal wedding last Wednesday afternoon. United in holy matrimony were Miss Hisako Okamura and Mr. Yeiki Tashiro with Rev. Imai officiating.

The bride, attired in a lovely satin gown with a full train and finger-tip veil, was attended by Miss Carole Fujisaki. Mr. Toshi Nakamura acted as best man.

Preceding the solemn exchanging of vows, Miss Raiko Konatsu beautifully rendered the selection "I Love You Truly".

The bride and groom, formerly of Readley and Orosi, will leave Tuesday for St. Louis, Missouri. Our best wishes for the future go with them.

In Fellowship,
George Takaoka
Adviser, Y.P. C.E.